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Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (A/51/519/Add.5 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided it with clarifications and additional information.

2. The report of the Secretary-General incorporates the additional requirements for the investigation of human rights abuses by local police forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with Security Council resolution 1107 (1997) of 16 May 1997, as well as provision for the transfer of responsibility for providing central support to the peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia from the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) headquarters to UNMIBH, as envisaged by the Secretary-General in a previous financing report (A/50/696/Add.5). Those requirements are estimated at $10.6 million gross, of which $7.9 million gross relates to the human rights mandate and $2.7 million gross is for the transfer of central functions. The present report of the Secretary-General should be read in conjunction with his earlier reports to the General Assembly on the financing of UNMIBH (A/51/519/Add.1, 2 and 4).

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, by its resolution 51/152 B of 13 June 1997, appropriated $178.9 million gross for the maintenance of UNMIBH for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. The Secretary-General proposed that the Assembly appropriate the additional $10.6 million gross, assessed at a monthly rate of $884,000 gross, subject to the extension of the mandate of UNMIBH by the Security Council beyond 21 December 1997 (A/51/519/Add.5 and Corr.1, para. 18). The proposed additional requirements of $10.6 million gross represent a 5.6 per cent increase over the initial appropriation.

4. As indicated in the previous report (para. 14), changes to the current staffing approved until 30 June 1998 include an additional 17 administrative assistants and 100 language assistants, for a net increase of 117 local posts for the human rights mandate; for central support functions the additional staffing requirements will gradually decrease from 54 to 46 posts.

5. The Advisory Committee recalls that in July 1997 it had agreed to the Controller's request to enter into commitments in the amounts not exceeding $1.7 million gross for the financing of 171 additional civilian staff of UNMIBH for an initial period of four months and $1.3 million gross for the acquisition of vehicles and other equipment in support of 120 additional civilian police monitors of UNMIBH. The

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Committee had also pointed out, *inter alia*, that the ratio of additional locally recruited staff to additional police monitors needed to be re-examined with a view to reducing the number of local staff; functions to be assigned to local staff also needed to be reviewed in order to ensure that there was no overlap or duplication; and greater efforts should be made by the administration to obtain more of what was required from surplus stock of vehicles and equipment. Those observations of the Committee were not taken into account during the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/519/Add.5). The Committee therefore reiterates its view that the ratio of locally recruited staff to police monitors and their functions should be reviewed with a view to reducing the number of local staff and that more vehicles should be obtained from surplus stock rather than purchased.

6. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the preliminary status of expenditure for UNMIBH (in millions of United States dollars) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 is as follows:

	Gross	*Net*
A. Appropriation	151.2	144.5
B. Expenditure		
Disbursement	104.7	100.2
Obligations	13.5	13.5
Total	**118.2**	**113.7**
C. Unencumbered balance (A-B)	33.0	30.8

The Committee notes that the unencumbered balance of $33.0 million gross represents more than 20 per cent of the appropriation of $151.2 million gross authorized by the General Assembly for the 12-month period ending 30 June 1997.

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that the estimated unencumbered balance of $33.0 million gross as at 30 June 1997 was mainly due to delays in the deployment of military and civilian personnel of the Mission. The following table illustrates the status of the deployment as at 30 September 1997:

	Authorized	*Actual*	*Incumbency rate (percentage)*
Military observers	28	26	93
Military liaison officers	5	3	60
Civilian police	2 027	1 952[a]	96
International staff			
Currently approved	382	310	81
Commitment authority	392		79
Local staff			
Currently approved	1 083	1 084	100
Commitment authority	1 236		88

[a] As at 10 October 1997, the actual number of civilian police reported in UNMIBH was 2,021.

8. With regard to the proposed requirements of $360,000 under travel costs for the rotation of 120 civilian police (see A/51/519/Add.5, annex III, para. 2), the representatives of the Secretary-General confirmed to the Advisory Committee, upon request, that only one-way deployment travel would be required for the 120 additional police during the 12-month period. The corresponding reduction in the cost estimates is $180,000.

9. The Advisory Committee notes the transfer from UNPF to UNMIBH of central support in the area of communication. The Committee was also informed of the anticipated transfer of the communications hub from Zagreb to Brindisi, Italy, and the role of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi to act as a satellite communications link between United Nations Headquarters and the peacekeeping operations in Central Asia, the Middle East and the former Yugoslavia (A/51/905, para. 13 (c)). In the light of the above, the Committee sought clarification on the likeliness of a duplication of roles. It was informed that in order to ensure continued satellite communications support to both the Stabilization Force (SFOR) and the United Nations operations in the former Yugoslavia, and bearing in mind the downsizing of both the civilian and the military presence in Zagreb, the Secretary-General had decided that the role of the KU band stations in Zagreb, Sarajevo and Brindisi would be as follows:

(a) Zagreb: supports the existing United Nations/SFOR infrastructures in Zagreb by handling all communications traffic emanating and terminating there;

(b) Sarajevo: supports the United Nations/SFOR infrastructures in Sarajevo by handling all communications traffic emanating and terminating there;

(c) United Nations Logistics Base: serves as the back-up hub for the KU band network, providing relay services and switching between the KU and C band networks and the field mission. That role was formerly performed by Zagreb, but as a result of downsizing, the function, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, can be handled more efficiently by the United Nations Logistics Base.

10. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that in view of the political and other developments in the Republica Srpska there had been delays in the implementation of the training aspect of the UNMIBH mandate because training was an integral part of the general police restructuring for which the cooperation of the parties was required. However, the relevant authorities in the Republica Srpska have given their written consent to the police restructuring, and the representatives of the Secretary-General expect the process, including the training, to start in the coming weeks.

11. In view of its comments and observations above, the Advisory Committee does not believe it is necessary to appropriate the amount of $10.6 million gross for the maintenance of UNMIBH for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 over and above the amount of $178.9 million gross already appropriated for the same period under General Assembly resolution 51/152 B. The Committee trusts that the Secretariat will fully take into account the Committee's comments and observations in paragraph 5 above, which should contribute to a reduction in resource requirements for the Mission. Any additional requirements that cannot be accommodated within the overall amount of $178.9 million gross already appropriated by the General Assembly should be fully explained and justified in the performance report for the Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998.

12. At the same time, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be authorized to retain in the special account for UNMIBH the unencumbered balance for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 until the General Assembly takes a decision on the performance report for UNMIBH for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998.